

The County of Centre

PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 31 OF 2021

WHEREAS, domestic violence is an issue affecting people in Centre County, regardless of age, gender, economic status, race, religion, nationality, or educational background; and

WHEREAS, twenty-four people in the United States are victims of intimate partner violence every minute; and

WHEREAS, one in four women and one in ten men have experienced sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, 30 percent of children exposed to intimate partner violence had their first exposure before the age of two, and an additional 26 percent had their first exposure between the ages of two and seven; and

WHEREAS, victims of domestic violence are more likely to experience long-term mental and physical health concerns including higher risk of chronic disease, substance abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety; and

WHEREAS, challenges related to the COVID-19 global pandemic, including stressors such as unemployment, reduced income, limited resources and social support, may increase risk factors for family violence; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an important opportunity to enhance education, prevention and intervention efforts around domestic violence and support organizations and individual who provide advocacy efforts, services, and assistance to victims; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in recognition of the work done by the numerous organizations and individuals who work to prevent and eliminate violence, and provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims, the Centre County Commissioners do hereby proclaim **October 2021** as "**Domestic Violence Awareness Month**" and urge all citizens to speak out against violence and support local efforts to assist victims of these crimes.

ADOPTED this 28th day of September 2021.



CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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